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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/847,537	05/01/2001	Kiyoshi Matsui	370055.402	4015
500	7590	06/08/2005	EXAMINER	
SEED INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW GROUP PLLC 701 FIFTH AVE SUITE 6300 SEATTLE, WA 98104-7092			TRAN, THAI Q	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2616	

DATE MAILED: 06/08/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/847,537

Applicant(s)

MATSUI ET AL.

Examiner

Thai Tran

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 01 May 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 9/24/04, 1/28/03, and 8/13/01
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1 and 8-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Takii et al (US 4,264,939).

Regarding claim 1, Takii et al discloses a method for forming a magnetic gap for a video signal erasure head (Figs. 3-5), wherein:

said erasure head comprises a back core (the rear core 13 and the holder 14 of Figs. 3-4, col. 3, lines 36-50) made of a magnetic substance which is wound with an excitation coil and a front core arranged opposite to said back core;

said front core (the front core 10 of Figs. 3-4, col. 3, lines 15-35) includes two magnetic substance constituting a magnetic path and a non-magnetic substance providing a magnetic gap arranged therebetween; and

said magnetic gap forming method comprises the steps of:

sandwiching said non-magnetic substance between said two magnetic substances when said front core is assembled (the rod-shaped cores 10a, 10b, and 10c and the gap-spacers 11a and 11b disclosed in col. 3, lines 15-35); and

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adhering or welding said magnetic substances and said non-magnetic substance integrally (the rod-shaped cores 10a, 10b, and 10c and the gap-spacers 11a and 11b disclosed in col. 3, lines 15-35).

Regarding claim 8, Takii et al discloses a video signal erasure head (Figs. 3-5) comprising a back core made of a magnetic substance wound with an excitation coil and a front core which is arranged opposite to the back core and also which includes two magnetic substances constituting a magnetic path between which is arranged a non-magnetic substance providing a magnetic gap (the front core 10 of Figs. 3-4 disclosed in col.3, lines 15-35 and the rod-shaped cores 10a, 10b, and 10c and the gap-spacers 11a and 11b disclosed in col. 3, lines 15-35), wherein

In said front core, said two magnetic substances and said non-magnetic substance are fixed by adhesion or welding (the rod-shaped cores 10a, 10b, and 10c and the gap-spacers 11a and 11b disclosed in col. 3, lines 15-35).

Regarding claim 9, Takii et al discloses a video recorder equipped with a video signal erasure head (Figs. 3-5), wherein:

said erasure head comprises a back core made of a magnetic substance wound with an excitation coil and a front core arranged opposite to the back core (the front core 10 of Figs. 3-4 disclosed in col.3, lines 15-35 and the rod-shaped cores 10a, 10b, and 10c and the gap-spacers 11a and 11b disclosed in col. 3, lines 15-35);

said front core comprises two magnetic substance constituting a magnetic path and a non-magnetic substance providing a magnetic gap (the rod-shaped cores 10a, 10b, and 10c and the gap-spacers 11a and 11b disclosed in col. 3, lines 15-35); and

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said non-magnetic substance is adhered or welded between said two magnetic substances (the rod-shaped cores 10a, 10b, and 10c and the gap-spacers 11a and 11b disclosed in col. 3, lines 15-35).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 2-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takii et al (US 4,264,939) in view of admitted prior art disclosed in pages 1-2 of the specification.

Regarding claim 2, Takii et al discloses all the claimed limitations as discussed in claim 1 above including the claimed sandwiching a plate-shaped non-magnetic substance providing a magnetic gap between said two magnetic substances and then adhering or welding said non-magnetic substance to said magnetic substances, thus forming an integrated assembly (the rod-shaped cores 10a, 10b, and 10c and the gap-spacers 11a and 11b disclosed in col. 3, lines 15-35) and polishing a face providing a front side of said head in said assembly to an axis-symmetrical curved face (col. 4, lines 2-7) except for providing cutting a face providing a rear side of a head in a head height direction in said assembly to thereby form a groove therein.

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The admitted prior art teaches of forming a head gap by cutting a face providing a rear side of a head in a head height direction in said assembly to thereby form a groove therein (FIG. 10(b) disclosed in page 1 of the specification).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the capability of cutting the groove as taught by the admitted prior into Takii et al's system since it merely amounts to selecting an alternative equivalent magnetic head forming method.

Regarding claim 3, the admitted prior art also teaches the claimed step of cutting a head height direction a face providing a rear side of said head in said assembly to thereby form a groove therein in said step of forming said assembly (FIG. 10(b) disclosed in page 1 of the specification).

Regarding claim 4, Takii et al discloses a claimed wherein prior to said step of forming said assembly, a groove is previously formed by cutting in a face providing a head rear side of a magnetic substance (the rod-shaped cores 10a, 10b, and 10c and the gap-spacers 11a and 11b disclosed in col. 3, lines 15-35).

Regarding claim 5, Takii et al discloses the claimed wherein said assembly is formed as a block having a size enough to form a plurality of front cores therein at a time (the rod-shaped cores 10a, 10b, and 10c and the gap-spacers 11a and 11b disclosed in col. 3, lines 15-35); and

said method further comprises a step of cutting and dividing said assembly in a direction perpendicular to the face of said non-magnetic substance into a plurality of

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sub-assemblies having an equal size, to prior to said polishing step (slicing the front core disclosed in col. 3, lines 26-30).

Regarding claim 6, the admitted prior art disclosed the claimed step of cutting a face providing a rear side of said head in said assembly formed by said assembly forming step in a head height direction to thereby form a groove therein (FIG. 10(b) disclosed in page 1 of the specification).

Regarding claim 7, Takii et al discloses the claimed wherein prior to said assembly forming step, a groove is previously formed by cutting in a face providing a head rear side of a magnetic substance (the rod-shaped cores 10a, 10b, and 10c and the gap-spacers 11a and 11b disclosed in col. 3, lines 15-35).

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

The cited reference relates to video magnetic head.

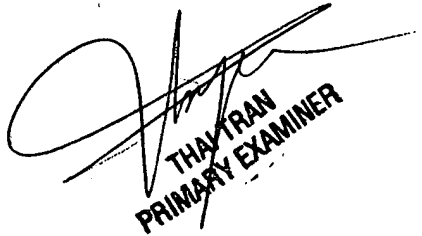
6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thai Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-7382. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. to Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TTQ



THAV TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER